

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3080

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HESLINKI

AMEMBASSY OLSO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4539

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDEN AND THE IEP

REF: STOCKHOLM 4091

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL OCTOBER 9 ON MINISTER OF
COMMERCE KJELL-OLOF FELDT, I ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF
SWEDISH CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER TO JOIN THE INTEGRATED
ENERGY PROGRAM (IEP). THE MINISTER SAID THIS QUESTION
WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET ON OCTOBER 11 (FRIDAY).
REGARDING IEP AND THE SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY OF NEUTRALITY,
THE MINISTER SAID HE THOUGHT PARTICIPATION IN IEP WOULD
NOT REFLECT ADVERSELY ON SWEDISH NEUTRALITY; IN FACT, HE
THOUGHT SWEDEN'S NEUTRALITY COULD BE ENDANGERED BY NOT
JOINING, SINCE IN AN EMERGENCY SWEDEN WOULD HAVE TO
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LOOK TO THE EAST. SWEDEN, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CONSULTING

WITH SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA, AS WELL AS WITH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY NORWAY, AND SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA WILL BE MEETING WITH DAVIGNON ON OCTOBER 14 (MONDAY). IN A SEPARATE MEETING, MFA EWERLOF INFORMED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT DAVIGNON MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND MIGHT INCLUDE SOME ECG PARTICIPANTS.

2. FELDT SAID THAT IN HIS MIND THERE WERE TWO QUESTIONS THAT NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE GOS MADE ITS DECISION ON PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP: (A) WHO WILL BECOME MEMBERS OF IEP; AND (B) HOW WILL COORDINATION WITH OIL COMPANIES BE CARRIED OUT. IF OIL COMPANIES DO NOT FREELY AND EFFECTIVELY COOPERATE WITH IEP, THE PROGRAM CANNOT FUNCTION. BASED ON HIS OWN INFORMATION FROM READING OIL INDUSTRY STATEMENTS, FELDT THOUGHT THAT THE OIL COMPANIES WOULD COOPERATE. HE THEN OBSERVED WRITELY THAT OIL COMPANIES HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THEIR VIEWS PRESENTED IN THE PRESS, AND HE THOUGHT THIS WAS UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE THEIR PUBLIC IMAGE NEEDED IMPROVING.

3. FELDT'S COMMENTS WHICH GAVE A POSITIVE SLANT TOWARD SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN IEP ARE WORTH REPORTING, FOR THE MINISTER OF FINANCE GUNNAR STRANG, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE IMF/IBRD MEETING IN WASHINGTON, WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT SWEDEN WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN THE IEP. FELDT MADE NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO STRANG'S STATEMENT BUT IT WAS IMPLICIT THAT STRANG'S COMMENTS WERE HIS OWN AND NOT NECESSARILY THE GOS POSITION. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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